

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

LEVEL
ONE

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AVACO HOLDS STRATEGY PLANNING CONFERENCE

On April 25, 26 a strategy planning conference in audio-visuals and radio was held by the General Board of Directors and committees of the Audio-visual Aids Commission of NCC, at the Itoya Hotel in Sugawara. Over forty persons, representing the fourteen churches and organizations in NCC, the staff of NCC, the Committee for Evangelization of the Blind and others groups, met together for two days hearing reports and sharing ideas.

Radio

Rev. I. Mitsui, chairman of the Radio Committee, reported that AVACO is presenting four different kinds of Christian broadcasts over more than twenty stations. This means receiving free time totaling over ¥500,000 in value. Mr. Mani, Head of the Religion Department of the Japanese National Broadcasting Network, reported on the state of religious broadcasting and his desire to work further with AVACO within the limits of NHK policy in producing Christian programs and getting religious news and influence into general broadcasts.

Among the suggestions made in the field of radio, the most significant was the feeling that AVACO must find money to produce and sponsor at least one first-rate Christian evangelistic program. In the field of religious music and the establishment of a study group in the effective use of religious music in broadcasting. Mr. I. Sekiya spoke strongly in favor of a radio Training and Research Institute for Ministers and Laymen, looking toward awakening interest and training talent for Christian programs.

Television

Color puppet films prepared in the U.S., such as "The Good Samaritan", have been cleared for use on T-V in Japan. It is also planned to seek other suitable foreign films and produce others in Japan, such as the recent, "The Good Soil", which are suitable for telecasting.

Evangelism through Records

Rev. S. Matsumura told of experiments the Baptists are conducting in evangelism through records and recommended AVACO explore the use of records in evangelization of the sick, general evangelism, with children, in church schools, and for answering questions.

Drama

In the past, as Mr. E. Sekine, chairman of the Drama Committee, reported that AVACO has carried on an educational campaign to encourage the use of drama by the churches, conducted a contest in production of plays, cooperated with the N.C.C. Literature Department in the publication

Yale Divinity Library
New Haven, Conn.

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of Kamishibai and a book of Christian plays for churches, and sponsored puppet shows and Christmas programs for children.

Future plans include publication of plays for children. In addition, extension of the use of the highly popular puppet show to rural evangelism was discussed and publication of scenarios for puppets and a study-training group in puppeteering was recommended. Other suggestions were the sending of youth drama caravans to rural churches and the eventual development of a first-rate, commercial Christian drama group. The possibility of using the popular Japanese techniques of ballads and story-telling in rural evangelism was discussed, as well as the formation of guilds of Christian artists and musicians.

Film-loan Library

Rev. T. Yamakita reported that AVACO's library now contains 450 film strips which were used 3,493 times in 1953. Especially significant was the fact that during this year Japanese users have come to far out-number missionaries.

The number of 16 .m.m. films, too, has steadily risen, as well as tapes in Japanese to accompany these. One pressing need is a commercial-quality sound recorder for films, both for putting Japanese sound tracks on western films and the production of films in Japan.

Other suggestions included the need for film strips on Japanese church life, on Japanese moral problems such as sex, drinking, etc.,. A series on the history of Japanese Christianity was suggested as a part of the Centennial Celebration.

Production of Films in Japan

Monday evening, "The Good Soil", 16 .m.m. experimental color film, was well-received by the group. The black and white version of this film, based on the parable of the soils, was shown over NHK T-V.

Mr. Sekiya reported that it may be possible to work out a cooperative arrangement with a commercial movie company in Japan to produce a documentary on the history of Christianity in Japan for the Centennial Celebration, at a probable total cost of \$50,000. This would be presented in regular commercial theatres something like the present film, "Martin Luther".

It was also proposed that AVACO should set up something like a committee to review and evaluate commercial films as to their moral content and educational value.

Evangelism for the Blind

Mr. Matsumura recommended that records be made for the evangelization of the blind and suggested that AVACO's tape library might also be utilized in this work. He asked that the group keep in mind what might be done for the deaf and dumb, also.

Public Relations

AVACO's producing good news and artistic photographs of a religious nature was recommended. The possibility of religious news pictures for commercial newsreels was also discussed.

Exhibition

It was also suggested that AVACO prepare a portable exhibit on Christianity, the Bible and church activities which can be shown in cities and towns throughout Japan. Also, that a resource exhibit room be set up in the new A-V center where religious pictures, music, etc. can be shown.

Five Year Plan

These suggestions are to become the basis of a five year plan for AYACO.

PROMINENT JAPANESE EPISCOPALIANS TO ATTEND ANGLICAN CONGRESS

A group of almost 30 prominent Japanese Episcopalians are making plans to attend the Anglican Congress in Minneapolis on August 4-13, 1954. The group will be headed by the Most Rt. Rev. Y.H. Yashiro and will include the Rt. Rev. P.S. Yanagihara, Rt. Rev. J.H. Okubo, Rt. Rev. P.H. Sada, Rt. Rev. K.A. Viall, and a number of other priests and laymen and women.

Theme of the conference will be: The Call of God and the Mission of the Anglican Communion. The Archbishop of Canterbury will preside. Topics to be discussed will include I Our Vocation; II Our Worship; III Our Message; IV Our Work. Prominent church leaders from all over the world will address the conference on these various topics. The conference will break down into smaller groups to discuss the topics. The last day will be devoted to a summary of the findings of Congress and the presentation of resolutions formulated by the Congress.

LETTER REGARDING H-BOMB VICTIMS RECEIVED FROM NCCCUSA

The NCCCUSA expressed its concern and sympathy for the victims of the recent H bomb tests in a letter addressed to the Japan NCC. The letter expressed the hope that Christians all over the world could continue to join together in working for peace.

HANDBOOK FOR KYODAN MISSIONARIES IN PLANNING STAGE

A project to publish a "Handbook for Christian Missionaries to Japan" has been initiated by the Kyodan and a committee whose chairman is Rev. Kozue Tomoi, former general secretary of the Kyodan, has been formed. The Handbook will endeavor to help new missionaries understand the history and organization of the Kyodan, emphasizing the special problems which arise because of its diverse denominational background.

The constitution of the Kyodan, the "Confession of the Kyodan Church" and the recent "Manifesto for Christian Life" will also be included.

FAMILY LIFE MOVEMENT CONFERENCE MAY 19-20

The program of the Christian New Life Movement will be discussed at a meeting sponsored by the Family Life Commission of the JNCC. The meeting, which will be held at Ito on May 19-20, will be attended by representatives of local councils of churches, as well as by the JNCC commission members.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE

The 2nd volume of Biblical Maps will be printed in June....A new series of evangelical tracts was published just before Easter with the following titles: The Suffering of Christ; Easter; Pentecost; Mothers Day; Childrens Day; Miracles of Jesus. Another set of 6 will be published soon. Seven sub-committees for 1954 were set up by the Directors of the Board of Literature Commission at the April 22 meeting. The sub-committees remain the same as last year, with the addition of a sub-committee on Christian Novels, Poems and Essays, with Mrs. Hanako Muraoka as chairman. Special sub-committees were chosen to cooperate with the publication of the magazines New Asia and Nosen. Mr. Owaku YMCA representative was welcomed as a new Director. The resignation of the Christian Endeavor Youth Group was

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accepted.

The Commission discussed ways in which it could cooperate more intimately with the Kyobunkwan in the production of Christian Literature. The 1953 financial report was also accepted.

A meeting for all members of the Literature sub-committees was scheduled for late May or early June.

The Literature Commission planning committee met on April 2-3 at Yugawara to survey the last 2 years of work. The present "3 year plan" instituted by Dr. Floyd Shacklock will be finished next year. A "5 year plan" was proposed to carry the literature evangelism program from then to the centennial in 1959.

"Outlook for Christian Literature" a pamphlet listing the publications of the Literature Commission, and telling about the work of the commission is available from the Literature Dept. for 20 yen.

